

NEWS RELEASE

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SBA AND INTUIT OFFER FREE COPIES OF QUICKBOOKS PRO SOFTWARE

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) today announced a new partnership with Intuit to provide entrepreneurs with free, easily accessible business finance software. The partnership is part of the agency's ongoing effort to inform small business owners about the effective use of technology in small business management.

Intuit, a leading provider of financial management software, will provide 4,400 free copies of *Quickbooks Pro* to new small business owners. The *Quickbooks Pro* software will be available through the SBA's Business Information Centers (BICs), One Stop Capital Shops (OSCSs) and Women's Business Centers (WBCs) throughout the country.

"This free resource is another way the SBA is working with our private-sector partners to provide small business owners with the tools they need to succeed," SBA Administrator Aída Alvarez said. "Partnerships with companies like Intuit allow us to help entrepreneurs better manage their business finances in today's competitive environment."

Intuit's previous partnerships with the SBA's 54 BICs and 17 OSCSs included donations of *Turbo Tax* and *Quickbooks Pro* for use by clients visiting the facilities. Intuit has also donated this software to 35 of the SBA's WBCs, where it is used in the management of the facility. The SBA and Intuit also worked together to produce the Small Business Survival Kit, which is still available by calling toll free at 1-877-213-5890.

New small business owners interested in obtaining a free copy of *Quickbooks Pro* may visit their local Business Information Center, One Stop Capital Shop, or Women's Business Center while quantities last. The software is available only to new business owners with a business plan or business license completed since October 1998.

For more information or for the location of the BIC, OSCS or WBC nearest you, visit the SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/services or contact the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800-U-ASK-SBA.

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For more information on these and other SBA programs, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800-U-ASK-SBA, or visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov.